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Teal, Orange, Green, Ocean and Khaki Courses. Sometimes a tee location will share two different colored markers. The yardage total remains within designated handicap ranges so your stroke rating is not affected, just your enjoyment of the round.

During a tour of the maintenance facility, Brian explained that they use a combination of 60 percent leasing and 40 percent purchasing plans.

“We purchase equipment with extended-life uses like trap rakes and triplexes, which can be staged from use on greens to tees to collars and first mowings after top dressing and aerification,” he said. “The same for walk mowers. The older mowers are used for those

initial cuts after seasonal greens renovations.”

This is a common practice superintendents use to extend the useful life of a club’s capital investment in turf maintenance equipment.

The key is for clubs to recognize that there comes a time when annual maintenance costs and meeting member expectations on course conditioning collide with the budget.

Speaking of capital investments, recently the clubhouse underwent a total renovation. Brian and Aberdeen’s Chief Operating Officer Michael DiPietro gave me a tour of the facility and over lunch, Michael explained the innovative concepts incorporated in the renovation and

also the management philosophy and family atmosphere that prevails in all aspects of the club from the members to the employees.

DiPietro said, “Our goal was provide the ultimate country club experience at a tremendous value. The form and function of the final product accomplishes just that. In fact the new design has won awards and lots of inquiries from other clubs. We are proud of that, but we are more excited about the response and use by the members and the operational efficiencies that help the staff provide great experiences for our members.”

Two great examples were the outdoor, multi-pool activity area and the Cardio Stadium, a theatre-style exercise/fitness room.

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MAIN FUN FACTS

Vehicle: 2007 Nissan Armada

I stay home to watch: NC State football

Last good movie I saw: I can't remember any recent movie I saw that didn't involve Disney princesses

Favorite meal: Filet mignon, baked potato and steamed vegetables

What I've been reading: Who has time to read?

Prized possessions: My family

Personal Heroes: Members of the U.S. Military

Nobody knows that I: I'll keep that one to myself

The one thing I can't stand: Irrational people

My most humbling experience: The birth of our twin daughters

My dream foursome: Jack Black, Will Ferrell, Adam Sandler and me

My best "fish" story: Still waiting for one

My most amazing golf shot: See the answer above



Brian Main with twin daughters, Isabella and Savannah. Photo by Andrea Main.

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“We have three distinct pool areas: the Serenity Pool for people to read and relax, the Exercise pool with swimming lanes for doing laps, and an Activity Pool for the kids,” DiPietro said. “You will note how the landscaping helps to separate and frame each area. Brian and his grounds staff do a super job of doing the detail work necessary to keep the area looking great.

“We are also very excited about the fitness room. All of the equipment is recessed into the elevated flooring levels and each station is offset from the ones behind so that everyone has a view through the window wall overlooking the pool areas and the 18th green. The use volume of the fitness room has increased dramatically since the redesign makes the surroundings more

conducive to achieving wellness goals.”

Another topic discussed at length was the work environment at the club. Expectations and opportunities were a major focus and DiPietro was proud of the retention, longevity, and 55 percent internal promotions rate for employees.

“It begins with the interview process,” DiPietro explained. “Not only is a club looking for the right person for the job, but the interviewee should be also looking for the right fit for their career growth and expectations. When we interviewed Brian, I told him that we expected his first year would be dedicated to making the improvements to the course that we desired and for him to learn our system and get to know

his fellow department heads and employees. During his second year, which should be easier, we’d like to see him get more involved with his professional associations by volunteering and getting involved on committees. Thereafter we’d hope he would assume a leadership role and serve on the board(s) of his groups which would be good for his continuing education which would benefit the club and himself.

“I call this a system of deposits and withdrawals. In the beginning you make deposits of time and effort for learning the systems and accomplishing primary goals. Later, when you need personal time off for travel and education and for raising your family, you make withdrawals.”

Michael DiPietro is the son of Jay DiPietro, who helped pioneer



Bunker fingers define hole #3, The Grasping Hand. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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Carmen Magro MBA CGCS has extensive experience working with facilities around the world. He has served as golf course superintendent, professional consultant, advisor, university instructor and researcher.

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First Assistant Angela Wilson shows off a back saving spreader rack idea that Brian brought home from a trade show. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the growth and effectiveness of the Club Managers Association in South Florida. He has learned to appreciate true professionals who serve their clubs well, but who also understand that it is a joint effort by everyone that makes a club ultimately successful over the long term. He also understands the importance of having a global view of the issues facing our industry and for all committed professionals – manager, pro, membership, food and beverage or superintendent – to participate in their associations to grow personally and professionally for the success of the golf industry.

Brian has certainly thrived in

this positive atmosphere and he's following the model magnificently.

Like any new superintendent he spent long days getting the course into shape. He has served in all offices of the Palm Beach GCSA and is now on the Florida GCSA Board of Directors and he has a growing family he's devoted to.

When I asked him what advice he might share with others to help with having a successful career, he responded, "Never close the lid on your 'toolbox of knowledge.' Be open to criticism as well as new ideas. Practice sound judgment and agronomic practices. Be a leader, a role model and an enabler for learning. Finally, be a member and

get involved in your local chapter. Take advantage of the professional resources, educational sessions and networking opportunities they provide."

My visit to Aberdeen was unique in the history of the cover stories I've written over the years. It's often easy to convey the passion of the superintendent for his job at a club, but never before have I been treated to such a detailed discussion of the goals and mission of the entire facility. I called it "Team Aberdeen."

"We call it the "Aberdeen Family," Michael DiPietro said.

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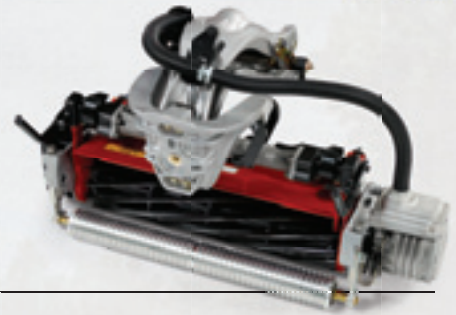
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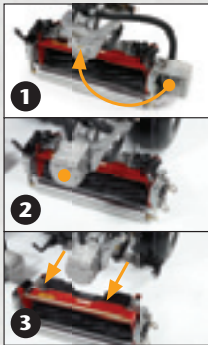
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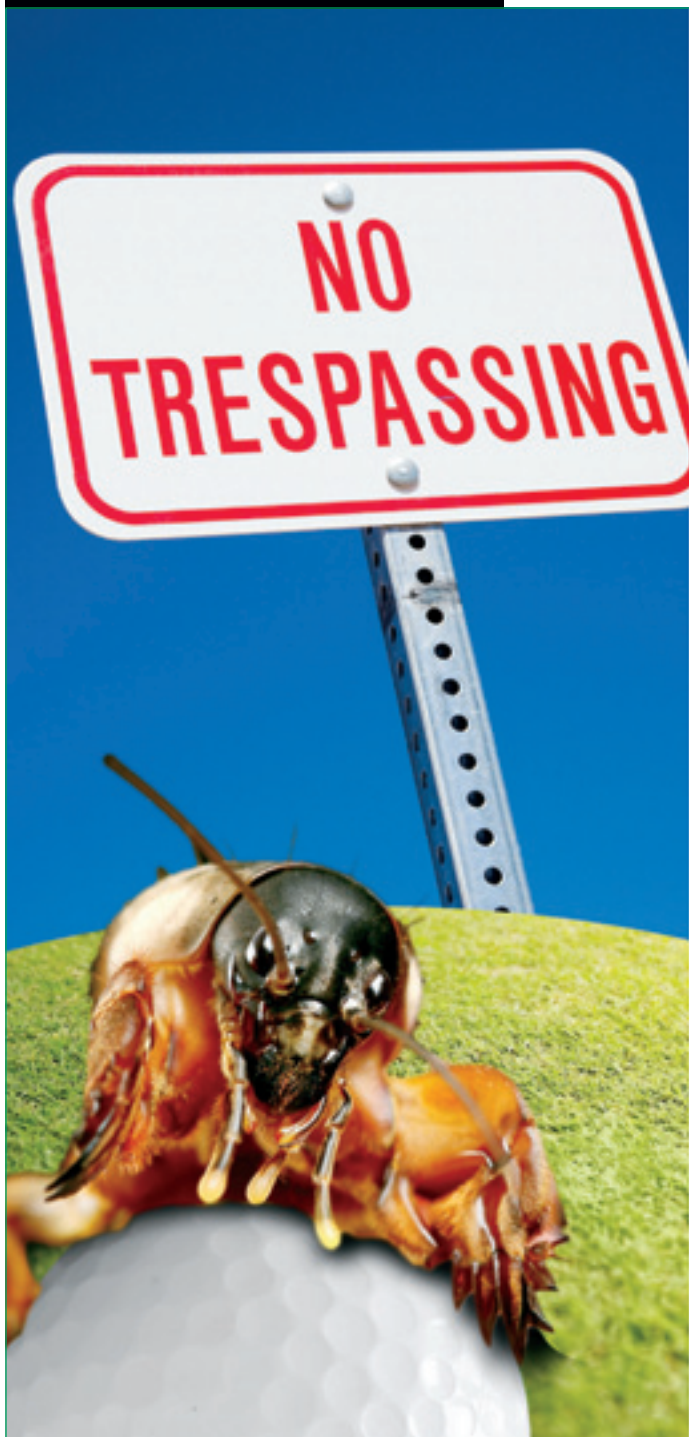
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Debugging Your Golf Course

Because of a warmer-than-normal winter and spring, insect life cycles and your treatment programs probably began a tad earlier than usual this year; of course the drier-than-normal conditions may also have had an effect on program timing as well. That's why it pays to monitor and visit your traditional hot spots for signs of activity. We asked superintendents to respond to an Insect Control Survey for tips and ideas on what they're doing to manage pest pressures. Here are comments by three superintendents: Darren Davis, Bill Tyde and Joe Ondo. There may be a few weed control comments thrown in for good measure.

Survey Responses and Comments

1 Do you make any truly wall-to-wall insecticide applications on your course?

Davis: For the first time in over 10 years, I did a wall-to-wall for mole cricket control. I used a product from DuPont — Provaunt®. I also made my first “almost” wall-to-wall preemergent application in over 10 years this year using Specticle®.

Tyde: No wall-to-wall applications this year. Only treating where hot spots are active.

Ondo: The insect control program that worked for us the last few years is to apply Bifenthrin® and Imidacloprid® with a wetting agent around the end of May through the full moon in June on our greens, tees, slopes and clubhouse area. Most of our roughs are treated with fertilizer plus Talstar® during that same time frame.

2 Do you primarily do spot treatments including selective greens only in treating outbreaks (as opposed to treating all greens if you see signs on a couple of greens?)

Davis: Yes I do primarily, but I will do preventive fungicide application on greens mid-November to mid- February.

Tyde: Yes, but depending on the pest and time of year, aeration schedule determines if we treat all greens or other



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